

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the specification starting at page 58 paragraph [0146], please replace paragraph [0146] with the following amended paragraph:

[0146] Sequences were processed and annotated using the software package EST-MAX commercially provided by Bio-Max (Munich, Germany). The program incorporates practically all bioinformatics methods important for functional and structural characterization of protein sequences. For reference see [\[\[http://\]pedant.mips.biochem.mpg.de](http://pedant.mips.biochem.mpg.de).